

B2 & C2
curve is substantially equal to a thickness of said web between the shaft-supporting portion and said at least one circumferential rib.

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 and canceled claim 7 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), stating that the drawings do not show the corrugated shape comprising triangles claimed in claim 5 or that the thickness of the smooth curve corrugated web being smaller than a thickness of other webs as claimed in claim 7. In reply thereto, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Fig. 5 which clearly shows the triangular corrugated shape of claim 5. In addition, Applicant has canceled claim 7 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are no longer objectionable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, stating that the specification is absent any support regarding the thickness limitations of the curved corrugated web embodiment.

In reply thereto, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 10, lines 21-24 as support for the structure of claim 6 and has canceled claim 7 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 complies with the requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP 10-278124 in view of Williams et al., stating that JP '124 discloses in Figs. 1a and 1b a plastic gear having teeth 3 on an annular portion thereof, a shaft supporting member 2, ribs 5 and a web portion 4 located between the rib and the teeth, but does not disclose that the web portion is corrugated; Williams et al. teaches in Figs. 1 and 3 a plastic gear having a corrugated web portion; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify JP '124 in view of Williams et al.

Applicant has carefully reviewed JP '124 and respectfully submits that shown therein is merely a plastic gear. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere in JP '124 does it suggest that there would be provided a corrugated web.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Williams et al. and respectfully submits that in Williams et al., while there may be shown a corrugated web, the corrugated web extends from the shaft supporting portion formed at a radially inner location 11 and a substantially annular toothed portion at a radially outer location 10 and there is no suggestion in Williams et al. that one would provide another circumferential rib between the toothed portion 10 and the shaft supporting portion 11. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits neither Williams et al. nor JP '124 suggests that the web between the circumferential rib and the toothed portion would be the only part which would have a substantially corrugated shape.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the Examiner not suggested by the art but also the combination suggested by the Examiner is not Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-6 are not obvious over JP '124 in view of Williams et al.

The Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP '124 in view of Williams et al. and further in view of Mlenjnek et al., stating that the combination of Williams et al. and JP '124 discloses all of Applicant's invention, but does not disclose that the plastic gear is used to drive an image forming device; Mlenjnek et al. teaches in Fig. 4 a laser printer drive train having drive means 31, 32 which drive a photoconductor drum 37 through a plastic gear 18; and it would have been obvious to modify the combination of JP '124 and Williams et al. in view of the teachings of Mlenjnek et al.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention, JP '124 and Williams et al. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Mlenjnek et al. merely shows a plastic gear and does not disclose the circumferential rib between the shaft supporting portion and the toothed portion for the corrugated shape of the web.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is not obvious over JP '124 in view of Williams et al. and further in view of Mlenjnek et al.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Rule 116 Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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William L. Androlia

Name


Signature

3/6/2003

Date

Application No. 09/870,279

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A gear made of resin, comprising a substantially annular toothed portion formed at a radially outer location, a shaft-supporting portion formed at a radially inner location around a rotational center of said toothed portion, a web connecting said shaft-supporting portion and said toothed portion to each other, wherein

[said web has a] at least one circumferential rib is formed [thereon] concentrically with the toothed portion and radially provided between said shaft-supporting portion and said toothed portion, and

the circumferential sectional shape of said web between said at least one circumferential rib and said toothed portion is a substantially corrugated shape.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The gear according to claim [1] 4, wherein a thickness of said web that has said circumferential sectional shape which is said corrugated shape contoured by said smooth curve is substantially equal to a thickness of [other webs] said web between the shaft-supporting portion and said at least one circumferential rib.

Cancel claim 7 without prejudice.